

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A computer network, comprising:

one or more work centers, each comprising work center devices;

one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices located at one or more of said work centers, said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices communicatively coupled with said work center devices via cabling, ~~and wherein~~ said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices providing an access control point, said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices further automatically providing a tamper alert signal to a network management source in the event of a physical breach ~~is configured to receive an add-on device selected from the group consisting of intelligent remote testing devices and security devices; and~~

one or more network servers, each connected with one or more of said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices, each connection via a single industry standard communications cable, wherein signals between said work center devices and said network servers are multiplexed in said cabling and said single industry standard communications cable; and

one or more network administrator consoles, each network administration console implementing and managing said access control point of said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices.

2. (original): The computer network described in Claim 1, wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are fixedly located at said work centers.

3. (original): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise computers.

4. (original): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise computer peripheral devices.

5. (original): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise voice telephones.
6. (original): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are enabled to be coupled wirelessly to said work center devices.
7. (currently amended): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said industry standard communications cabling is fiber-optic cabling.
8. (currently amended): The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said industry standard communications cabling is wire cabling.
9. (currently amended): A method for connecting devices to a network at a work center, comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector at said work center capable of connecting said network devices to said network via a single industry standard communications cable, said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device providing an access control point, said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device further automatically providing a tamper alert signal to a network management source in the event of a physical breach and configured to receive an add-on device, said add-on device selected from the group consisting of intelligent remote testing devices and security devices;
 - b) electronically coupling two or more of said network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector; and,
 - c) multiplexing signals between said network and said network devices.
10. (original): The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more of said network devices to said network is accomplished with modular cable connectors.

11. (original): The method described in Claim 9, wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector is fixedly located at said work center.

12. (original): The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is accomplished in part by said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector at said work center.

13. (original): The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals comprises multiplexing data signals.

14. (original): The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals comprises multiplexing device power.

15. (currently amended): A method for managing a computer network, wherein said computer network comprises one or more network servers and one or more work centers, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors, at one or more of said work centers, each of said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing connectors providing a connection to one of said network servers via a single industry standard communications cable, said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing connectors further providing an access control point, said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices further automatically providing a tamper alert signal to a network management source in the event of a physical breach and, ~~wherein said powered intelligent multiplexing connectors are configured for receiving an add-on device for performing remote testing and providing security;~~

b) electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector;

c) multiplexing signals between said network and said network devices;

d) monitoring the status of the infrastructure of said network; and,

e) communicating information of said status of said infrastructure to the a management of said network, said management comprising one or more network administrator consoles, each network administration console implementing and managing said access control point of said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices.

16. (original): The method described in Claim 15 wherein said step of providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors is accomplished, by fixedly locating said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors at said work centers.

17. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector is accomplished with modular cable connectors.

18. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling computers.

19. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling computer peripheral devices.

20. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling voice telephones.

21. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is capable of multiplexing network data signals.

22. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is capable of multiplexing device power.

23. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is accomplished in said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors.

24. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of monitoring the status of the infrastructure of said network is accomplished in part by the use of circuitry resident in said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors.

25. (original): The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of communicating information of the status of said infrastructure of said network is accomplished in part by the use of circuitry resident in said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors.